

**Town of Bluefield  
Town Council  
Minutes  
May 24, 2016**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

**PRESENT**

Don Harris, Mayor  
Anglis Trigg, Councilmember  
Donnie Linkous, Councilmember  
Jimmy Jones, Vice Mayor  
Lee Riffe, Councilmember  
Steve Danko, Councilmember

**ALSO PRESENT**

Mike Watson, Town Manager  
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney  
Shane Gunter, Police Chief  
Lesley Catron, Town Clerk  
Kim Hernandez, Executive Assistant  
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator  
Kris Williams, Zoning Administrator  
3 Members of Public  
1 Member of Media

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Bill Lykins, Memorial Baptist Church led the Invocation. Mayor Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Harris added an additional Section #6 to the Executive Session.

Vice-Mayor Jones made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Councilmember Trigg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Vice-Mayor Jones made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Riffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

## **CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

None.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS**

### ***Field Fest Update – Billie Roberts***

Mrs. Roberts stated that the IDA had appointed 5 committee members who had an idea of helping with an event downtown. She stated that it would be on June 9<sup>th</sup>, July 14<sup>th</sup> and August 11<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month). She stated that there would be Farmer's Market Vendors, live entertainment, unique vendors, food vendors and a wine & beer area. She stated that the event was free to everyone unless you wanted to go into the wine & beer area. She stated that pre-sale tickets were \$15 and \$25 at the gate with your ID. She stated that all money raised would go to the downtown projects. She stated that they were looking for sponsors and for \$1k for all 3 months you got your name on all of the information, flyers, banners and t-shirts, websites and all social media. She stated that First Community Bank, Investment Planning Advisors and J104 had already pledged their sponsorships and that they needed 2 more. She stated that the name Field Fest came from where a lot of people called Bluefield "Field" and that the hash tag #ilovebluefield was on social media where people were talking about it a lot and was a marketing technique. She stated the more it was used, then the more it would trend.

Mayor Harris asked if she anticipated any objections from local churches concerning the wine & beer area.

Mrs. Roberts stated that she had not heard anything negative yet and that it would be far enough away from all of the downtown churches and would also be on a Thursday night for only 3 hours.

Mayor Harris stated that if there were any opposition that it would be directed towards them and that they did not want to advocate it.

Mrs. Roberts said that there was a disclaimer on the marketing material that stated they could not hold the IDA, Town or employees responsible for anything.

## **NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS**

### ***Budget Amendments, VOTE – Mike Watson***

Mr. Watson stated the he was trying to clean up the budget and that a list of the amendments were in council's packet. He went over the following:

BUDGET AMENDMENTS  
 2015 / 2016

PURPOSE: Water Plant Upgrade Project

<b>Revenue</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Line Item</b>				
3108-9901	Misc. Revenue	<u>\$161,406.88</u>	<u>\$178,558.38</u>	<u>\$17,151.50</u>
		<u>\$161,406.88</u>	<u>\$178,558.38</u>	<u>\$17,151.50</u>

<b>Expenditure</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Line Item</b>				
1200-3140	Town Manager	<u>\$12,000.00</u>	<u>\$29,151.50</u>	<u>\$17,151.50</u>
	Professional Serv.	<u>\$12,000.00</u>	<u>\$29,151.50</u>	<u>\$17,151.50</u>

PURPOSE: Keep Virginia Beautiful Grant / Employee Litter Clean Up Day

<b>Revenue</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Line Item</b>				
3108-9901	Misc. Revenue	<u>\$161,406.88</u>	<u>\$162,156.88</u>	<u>\$750.00</u>
		<u>\$161,406.88</u>	<u>\$162,156.88</u>	<u>\$750.00</u>

<b>Expenditure</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Line Item</b>				
4230-8112	Litter Control	<u>\$2,329.00</u>	<u>\$3,079.00</u>	<u>\$750.00</u>
		<u>\$2,329.00</u>	<u>\$3,079.00</u>	<u>\$750.00</u>

PURPOSE: Communication Headsets

<b>Expenditure</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Line Item</b>				
3108-9901	Misc. Revenue	<u>\$161,406.88</u>	<u>\$165,814.22</u>	<u>\$4,407.34</u>
		<u>\$161,406.88</u>	<u>\$165,814.22</u>	<u>\$4,407.34</u>

<b>Revenue</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Line Item</b>				
3110-6010	Guns,Ammo,Night Sticks, etc.	<u>\$12,000.00</u>	<u>\$16,407.34</u>	<u>\$4,407.34</u>
		<u>\$12,000.00</u>	<u>\$16,407.34</u>	<u>\$4,407.34</u>

PURPOSE: Tactical Equipment

<b>Expenditure</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Line Item</b>				
3108-9901	Misc. Revenue	<u>\$161,406.88</u>	<u>\$178,547.32</u>	<u>\$17,140.44</u>
		<u>\$161,406.88</u>	<u>\$178,547.32</u>	<u>\$17,140.44</u>

<b>Revenue</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Line item</b>				
3110-6010	Guns, Ammo,Night Sticks, etc.	<u>\$12,000.00</u>	<u>\$29,140.44</u>	<u>\$17,140.44</u>
		<u>\$12,000.00</u>	<u>\$29,140.44</u>	<u>\$17,140.44</u>

PURPOSE: Court Camera

<b>Expenditure</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Line Item</b>				
3108-9901	Misc. Revenue	<u>\$161,406.88</u>	<u>\$162,801.88</u>	<u>\$1,395.00</u>
		<u>\$161,406.88</u>	<u>\$162,801.88</u>	<u>\$1,395.00</u>

<b>Revenue</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Line Item</b>				
3110-6010	Guns, Ammo,Night Sticks, etc.	<u>\$12,000.00</u>	<u>\$13,395.00</u>	<u>\$1,395.00</u>
		<u>\$12,000.00</u>	<u>\$13,395.00</u>	<u>\$1,395.00</u>

PURPOSE: VACO Transit Collision Reimbursement

<b>Expenditure</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Line Item</b>				
3108-9901	Transit Misc.	<u>\$161,406.88</u>	<u>\$162,918.30</u>	<u>\$1,511.42</u>
		<u>\$161,406.88</u>	<u>\$162,918.30</u>	<u>\$1,511.42</u>

<b>Revenue</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Line Item</b>				
4816-6009	Vehicle / Other Equip. Parts, etc.	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,511.42</u>	<u>\$1,511.42</u>
		<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,511.42</u>	<u>\$1,511.42</u>

Mr. Watson stated that he needed a vote to approve the Budget Amendments.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments. Mr. Jones seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilmember Riffe:	Yes
Councilmember Linkous:	Yes
Councilmember Trigg:	Yes
Mayor Harris:	Yes
Vice Mayor Jones:	Yes
Councilmember Danko:	Yes

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

***Public Hearing for Proposed FY 2016/2017 Budget, VOTE – Mike Watson***

Mr. Watson asked for a motion to approve scheduling a Public Hearing for the Proposed FY 2016/2017 at the next council meeting.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve scheduling a Public Hearing for the Proposed FY 2016/2017 at the next council meeting. Mr. Danko seconded the motion.

Mr. Linkous asked if they could schedule another Work Session before the next meeting.

Mr. Watson stated that changes could be made after the Public Hearing for anything else.

Mr. Watson stated that another Public Hearing would not have to be scheduled unless it was a major change.

Mr. Linkous stated if meals tax were raised then they would have to have a Public Hearing.

Mr. Watson asked if they wanted to have a Work Session next Tuesday.

Mr. Linkous stated that they did not have a choice if this was going to be put into this upcoming year's budget.

Mayor Harris stated that they needed to let the businesses know about the Public Hearing.

Mr. Watson stated that the budget advertisement would not show the increases, but he could include it if council wanted him too. He stated that it was not itemized to show rate increases.

Mayor Harris stated that it should be done and that he already had 2 business owners after him because of meals tax. He stated that he did not want it pushed thru without them knowing.

Mr. Riffe stated that the water increase should be done as well.

Mayor Harris agreed.

Mr. Trigg stated that they needed to consider all of those who had been recently laid off.

Mr. Danko stated that people had money for everything else.

Mr. Trigg stated that it was something they needed to think about.

Mr. Watson stated that they needed to determine what they wanted to do if they wanted to advertise the budget as is or with the increases or put a different ad with the increases. He stated that he needed direction and that they had a balanced budget in front of them.

Mayor Harris suggested they wait and meet again on Tuesday.

Mr. Riffe asked if the Blue Jays contribution was included on the budget and if it were then they could not go ahead with the Public Hearing with it still on there.

Mayor Harris stated that they would continue their discussion on Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Mr. Trigg withdrew his motion to schedule a Public Hearing for the Proposed FY 2016/2017 at the next council meeting. Mr. Danko withdrew his second. The motion failed.

## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

### ***Schedule Joint Public Hearing for the Rezoning of Downtown, VOTE***

Mr. Watson stated that the Welcome Center was currently zoned in the R2 area and recommended it be rezoned to B2. He asked that a Joint Public Hearing be scheduled at the next council meeting.

Mr. Linkous made a motion to approve scheduling a Joint Public Hearing at the next council meeting. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### ***Downtown Lighting Update***

Mr. Watson stated that staff was currently putting in the new water lines and hoped to pour sidewalks in the next week or so.

### ***Old Hockman Pike Update***

Mr. Watson stated that chains had been put up to keep things/people out of the water. He stated that they had marked where the benches would go and would also be installing single light poles.

Mr. Linkous asked if the benches would be the same ones from Lawrence Brothers.

Mr. Watson stated yes and that he was looking at how to pay for them.

***Joint Public Hearing, Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.***

Mr. Watson stated that there would be a Joint Public Hearing on Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

***COI Forms***

Mr. Watson stated that COI forms were due by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

***Evening Shade Schedule***

Mr. Watson stated that a copy of the Evening Shade Schedule was in council's packet.

***American Red Cross Blood Drive***

Mr. Watson stated that the American Red Cross would be holding a Blood Drive on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

***Memorial Day***

Mr. Watson stated that Town Offices would be closed on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> for Memorial Day. Trash regularly picked up on Monday will be collected on Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. Danko had none.

Mr. Jones had none.

Mr. Trigg had none.

Mr. Linkous had none.

Mr. Riffe asked about the Love Sign.

Mrs. Roberts stated that Fernando was working on a design and they would go from there.

Mayor Harris had none.

## **ATTORNEY REPORT**

None.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilmember Danko made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to *Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711-A-1.6 and 2.2-3711-A-1.7* and Mrs. Catron read:

The investing of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the government unit would be adversely affected.

Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members of consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

Councilmember Linkous seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Council entered into Executive Session at 8:07 p.m.

Vice-Mayor Jones made a motion to enter out of Executive Session. Councilmember Danko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Councilmember Danko made a motion to adopt the following resolution certifying the Executive Session and Mrs. Catron read:

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Bluefield, Virginia has convened an executive meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712-D of The Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Town Council of Bluefield, Virginia that such session was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of Bluefield, Virginia hereby certifies that, to the best of each members knowledge, (I) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Town Council.

Adopted this 24<sup>th</sup> day of May.

Councilmember Linkous seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilmember Riffe:	Yes
Councilmember Linkous:	Yes
Councilmember Trigg:	Yes
Mayor Harris:	Yes
Vice Mayor Jones:	Yes
Councilmember Danko:	Yes

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Danko made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Mr. Linkous seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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Don Harris, Mayor

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Lesley Catron, Town Clerk